
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 991

AN ACT CONCERNING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PALLIATIVE CARE.

SUMMARY:

This bill establishes, within available appropriations, a 12-member Palliative Care Advisory Council within the Department of Public Health (DPH). The council must (1) analyze the current state of palliative care in Connecticut and (2) advise DPH on matters related to improving palliative care and the quality of life for people with serious or chronic illnesses.

The bill requires the council to report annually, starting no later than January 1, 2015, its findings and recommendations to the DPH commissioner and the Public Health Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

PALLIATIVE CARE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Council members include:

1. one physician certified by the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and (b) one registered nurse or advanced practice registered nurse certified by the National Board for Certification of Hospice and Palliative Nurses, both appointed by the governor;
2. six licensed health care providers with experience or expertise in (a) inpatient palliative care in a hospital or nursing home, (b) palliative care in a patient's home or community setting, (c) pediatric palliative care, or (d) palliative care for young adults, adults or the elderly, all appointed by the DPH commissioner;
3. one licensed social worker experienced in working with people

with serious or chronic illness and their families, appointed by the House speaker;

4. one licensed pharmacist experienced in working with people with serious or chronic illness and their families, appointed by the Senate president pro tempore;
5. one spiritual counselor experienced in working with people with serious or chronic illness and their families, appointed by the House minority leader; and
6. one American Cancer Society representative or person experienced in advocating for people with serious or chronic illness and their families, appointed by the Senate minority leader.

The appointing authorities must make their appointments by December 31, 2013 and fill any vacancies. The members serve three-year terms without compensation, but are reimbursed for necessary expenses while performing their duties.

The members must elect a chairperson who must hold the first meeting by December 31, 2013. The council must meet biannually and at the call of the chair or the request of a majority of the members. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum. Any council action taken requires a majority vote of those present.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 0 (04/01/2013)